

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 160445Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3089

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T SANAA 2391

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, YE, TC

SUBJ: US ARMS SALE TO YEMEN

REF: (A) SANAA 2223

(B) SANAA 2194

(C) SANAA 1867

(D) JIDDA 3450

1. FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM ALGIERS' ARAB MEETINGS AND JUST BEFORE HIS TRANSFER FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY TO POSITION OF POLITICAL ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT, I RAISED WITH DEP PRIMIN/FONMIN NU'MAN EMBASSY'S REQUEST THAT EARLIER STATEMENT TO US BY COMMANDER IN CHIEF IRYANI (REF A) REGARDING ASSURANCE OF ABU DHABI PAYMENT BE CONFIRMED THROUGH CIVILIAN LEADERSHIP. NU'MAN PROMISED HE WOULD FOLLOW UP.

2. ON DECEMBER 10, IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR NU'MAN CALLED IN UAE AMBASSADOR SUWEIDI AND ASKED HIM SEEK A CABLED CONFIRMATION THAT ADG AWARE FINANCIAL DIMENSIONS OF PROPOSED US ARMS SALE TO YARG AND UNDERTAKES TO FUND BY DIRECT PAYMENT TO YARG. SUWAIDI AGREED TO REQUEST THIS ALTHOUGH REMARKING HE FELT IT UNNECESSARY IN LIGHT ASSURANCE HE HAD EARLIER CONVEYED TO PRIMIN HAJRI ON SHAIKH ZAYID'S INSTRUCTION (REF B).

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3. IN REPORTING HIS CONVERSATION WITH SUWEIDI TO ME, NU'MAN SAID HE ALSO INSTRUCTING YARG AMBASSADOR IN ABU DHABI SEE ADG OFFICIALS AND CONFIRM UNDERSTANDING BY SEPARATE TELEGRAM. NU'MAN ASKED ME WHETHER ALL THIS REALLY ESSENTIAL AND WHY USG UNWILLING REGARD SEVERAL ASSURANCES CONVEYED TO IT AS ADEQUATE BASIS PROCEED WITH FIRM LETTER OF OFFER. I SAID I THOUGHT IT PREFERABLE HAVE FINANCING BE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR GIVEN PAST DELAYS AND UNCERTAINTIES. I PERSONALLY FELT STATEMENT OF ADG INTENTIONS RECEIVED EITHER THROUGH THE SUWEIDI OR YAG CHANNEL WOULD BE SUFFICIENT ON THIS SCORE.

4. AMBASSADOR SUWEIDI VISITED ME DECEMBER 11 TO SAY HE HAD ACTED ON NU'MAN REMPUZWT AND EXPECTED RECEIVE POSITIVE REPLY WITHIN A FEW DAYS. I TOLD SUWEIDI THAT YEMENIS WOULD BE EXPECTED PRODUCE CHECK FOR TOTAL COSTS UPON SIGNATURE OF LETTER OF OFFER.

5. EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER AS SOON AS NU'MAN HEARS FROM SUWEIDI OR YARG AMBASSADOR IN ABU DHABI. HOPE LETTER OF OFFER CAN THEN BE IMMEDIATELY POUCHED. PRESENT PLAN IS THAT DATT COL. FIFER WOULD RETURN TO SANAA TO EXPLAIN AND NEGOTIATE IT WITH YARG. WE HOPE, ALSO, AS SPECIFIED REF (C) AND SUPPORTED REF (D), THAT LETTER OF OFFER WILL INCLUDE (1) PROVISION FROM US STOCKS AND BY AIR (THROUGH SAUDI ARABIA) OF 15 OF THE 30 106MM RECOILLESS RIFLES REQUESTED BY YARG AND 1000-1500 ROUNDS AMMO, (2) REQUESTED 10 81MM MORTARS IF SAG CAN BE PERSUADED RELEASE THESE AGAINST ITS FUTURE RECEIPTS. CRAWFORD

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NNN

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